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Tuesday, February 28, 2012
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News worth sharing.

▶ Zack Kassian, left, and Cody Hodgson.

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Star rookie Cody Hodgson, defenceman Alexander Sulzer sent to Sabres at trade deadline for physical winger Zack Kassian, blue-liner Marc-Andre Gragnani ◐ Hodgson, Canucks' 10th-overall pick in 2008 entry draft, had 16 goals and 33 points this season playing on team's third line {page 29}

Food

Novo has answers to your pizza prayers

◐ Kitsilano pizzeria makes the Lunch Rush grade {page 22}

Local

Suspect charged in series of DTES sexual assaults

◐ Alleged attacks on sex-trade workers date back to mid-'90s {page 3}

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San Francisco Air + 4 Nights — from $564 + taxes & fees $111
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USA

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INCLUDES all-suite accom in Scottsdale. **BONUS** daily breakfast included. **UPGRADE** to 5-star accom from $63 per night. **ADD** 3-day car rental with unlimited mileage from $24 per day.

Miami Air + 7 Nights — from $729 + taxes & fees $132
INCLUDES Miami Beach. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $41 per night. **ADD** Key West daytrip from $108.

New Orleans Jazz Festival
Air + 4 Nights — from $839 + taxes & fees $120
INCLUDES French Quarter accom during the Jazz Festival. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $19 per night. **ADD** jazz cruise from $43.

New York Air + 3 Nights — from $859 + taxes & fees $173
INCLUDES Manhattan accom. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $8 per night. **ADD** Sex and the City tour from $46.

Vacations

Dubai Air + 7 Nights
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INCLUDES accom near Jumeirah Beach. **BONUS** daily breakfast included. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $26 per night. **ADD** VIP Ferrari World pass from $110.

Thailand Thai New Year's Festival
Air + 8 Nights — from $924 + taxes & fees $380
INCLUDES accom in Bangkok over Thai New Year. **BONUS** daily breakfast included. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $9 per night. ADD floating markets from $35.

Buenos Aires
Air + 7 Nights 4-Star — from $1269 + taxes & fees $535
INCLUDES accom near Rio de la Plata. **BONUS** daily breakfast included. **UPGRADE** to 4.5-star accom from $62 per night. **ADD** private tango show from $119.

Tokyo Air + 8 Nights — from $1594 + taxes & fees $670
INCLUDES accom in the Shinjuku district. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $64 per night. **ADD** city tour from $76.

Rio de Janeiro Air + 7 Nights from $1754 + taxes & fees $432
INCLUDES accom in Copacabana. **BONUS** daily breakfast included. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $27 per night. **ADD** Petropolis tour from $89.

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Teachers ready to ramp up action

B.C. teachers may be allowed to launch a full-scale strike if the Labour Relations Board approves their application for such job action as the government prepares legislation to impose a contract.

A board hearing Monday night also considered whether a mediator should step into the labour dispute that began last September.

A ruling from the board was not expected as of deadline Monday, but could be announced Tuesday.

Education Minister George Abbott has said after nearly a year of negotiations, the teachers' union and the province's bargaining agent are too far apart for a mediator to settle the ongoing dispute.

Teachers have so far staged limited job action, such as not filling out report cards, meeting with administrators or supervising children in playgrounds.

Teachers across the province held a day of action Monday, working just "bell-to-bell," holding union meetings during the lunch hour and rallying after school.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, they will vote on whether to escalate their action and launch a full-scale walkout.

The Labour Relations Board must approve their next steps because education is designated an essential service.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/METRO

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

▶ Burnaby RCMP Chief Supt. Dave Critchley points to one of the vehicles driven by a Surrey man who has been charged for the alleged sexual assaults of four Downtown Eastside sex-trade workers, at a press conference in Burnaby on Monday.

Surrey man charged in sex-worker assaults

Man faces a dozen charges, including confinement and kidnapping
Due in court March 2 Police asking additional victims to come forward

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
@METRONEWS.CA

A 43-year-old Surrey man is facing 12 charges in connection with a string of sexual assaults against four Downtown Eastside sex-trade workers dating back to 1994.

Shalendra Kumar Sharma was charged with four counts of sexual assault, four counts of confinement, one count of kidnapping, two counts of assault, and one count of uttering threats.

Sharma, who was arrested Feb. 17, is due in court on March 2.

Burnaby RCMP began the investigation when two women came forward last December after being picked up from the DTES and transported to South Burnaby, where they were allegedly assaulted. The two alleged attacks happened Dec. 4 and 18.

RCMP Chief Supt. Dave Critchley said a VPD sex-crimes analyst helped link Sharma, a labourer at a manufacturing plant, to two similar alleged assaults in 1994 and 1997.

Sharma was not known to police and they don't believe he's linked to the missing women from the DTES.

"What we have learned from the past is that it's critical and crucial that we share information," Critchley said, stressing the co-operation between the more than 50 investigators from the RCMP and VPD.

VPD spokesperson Const. Lindsey Houghton said the department's sex-trade liaison gave out 55 emergency cellphones and notebooks to sex-trade workers in the DTES, asking them to report anything suspicious.

Police released photos of four vehicles Sharma has used in the past and are encouraging anyone with information to come forward.

Critchley said they have not released Sharma's photo or his description to protect the investigation.

Driver turns himself in

Police are investigating an alleged hit-and-run after a teenager was badly injured Monday morning.

The young man, 15, was reportedly walking on the east side of Fraser Street, at 49th Avenue, in Vancouver shortly after 8:15 a.m. when a minivan making a right turn struck him.

The driver allegedly looked back but drove away, police say.

The boy was taken to hospital in serious condition.

Police put out an urgent plea for help to the public to track down the vehicle and urged the driver to come forward. Hours later, Vancouver police say the driver turned himself in and was interviewed.

No charges have been laid yet. The investigation continues. MATT KIELTYKA

News in brief

Tiny city gets kudos for water

One of Canada's smallest cities has won some big-time bragging rights. The Kootenay-Boundary city of Greenwood, population 625, has won the nod for best-tasting municipal tap water in the world.

A panel of media judges at the 22nd annual Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting event in West Virginia handed out the honour on Saturday.

The judges rated waters from around the world for appearance, aroma, taste, feel and aftertaste.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cops ignored beating: Inquiry

The missing-women inquiry has been told how police ignored a half-naked and badly beaten sex-trade worker who walked into their Metro Vancouver office in the late 1990s.

The story was told by Maggie de Vries, who was reading from a journal kept by her sister, Sarah, who asked for police help after she was picked up by a customer in Vancouver's DTES and taken to a remote location where she was badly beaten. Maggie says the police ridiculed her sister and turned her back out on to the street.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

1 news

Medic-alert tattoos convey messages to first responders in ways bracelets can't, but do they carry legal weight? Scan the code for the story.

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Analysts are sounding the alarm over household-debt levels, but are the warnings overblown? Allan Small has more at metronews.ca/investing

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Listeria in seafood products: Researcher

Levels met federal guidelines, but bacteria can multiply
No immediate public-health risks: Food microbiologist

KENDRA WONG
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Traces of listeria have been found in several ready-to-eat seafood products sold in Metro Vancouver grocery stores, according to a study by a University of B.C. researcher.

Food microbiologist Kevin Allen tested 40 fish samples including lox, smoked tuna, candied salmon and fish jerky from seven large chain stores and 10 small retailers in Vancouver.

Listeria was found in 20 per cent of the products that were tested prior to the best-before date.

Allen noted that the listeria levels met federal guidelines but that the bacteria can multiply during handling and storage.

"Additional handling of ready-to-eat foods in stores, such as slicing, weighing and packaging, may increase the potential for cross-contamination," he said. "While listeria can be killed by high heat, most people eat these fish products without further cooking."

There are no immediate health risks for most people, but the bacteria could pose a risk to pregnant women, elderly people and anyone with a weak immune system.

Listeria is a bacteria that can lead to listeriosis, an infection resulting in fever, diarrhea and vomiting.

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Latest shooting in Surrey leaves one man dead

A 31-year-old man has died in the latest fatal shooting in Surrey.

RCMP were called to a north Surrey home on Sunday night, just before 10 p.m., to find the critically injured man.

He died before he could be rushed to hospital.

Members of the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team have now taken over the case.

Few details are being released and police say it's too early to determine a motive for the shooting, or to tell if it is linked to gangs or drugs. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Targeted

- Two men have died and two have been severely wounded in three targeted shootings around Metro Vancouver since the start of the year.

Second man arrested in Abbotsford murder

A second man has been charged in a murder in Abbotsford.

Twenty-six-year-old Robert Adam Van-Dusen of Aldergrove is accused of second-degree murder in the death of Ryan Saint-Ange, whose body was found inside a home last month.

Earlier, another 26-year-old man, Shayne Vauthrin, was also charged with second-degree murder in the killing.

Police say the two suspects are known to each other and the murder was not a random attack.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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News in brief

Woman charged in stabbing

A 37-year-old woman expected to face an assault charge when she appeared in a Metro Vancouver courtroom Monday, after a domestic dispute turned violent in Maple Ridge.

RCMP say the woman was arrested Sunday afternoon, shortly after police were called to a home in east Maple Ridge (on 276th Street).

A man suffering from a stab wound was found inside the house, but investigators say he is expected to recover.

The woman's name has not been released.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Saanich riding hit by robocall, May says

Green Party of Canada Leader Elizabeth May says her Saanich-Gulf Islands riding was one of those hit by the so-called robocall scandal during last year's federal election and she's demanding the Commons hold an emergency debate on the issue.

May also alleges similar "voter suppression" tactics were used in the riding during the 2008 election and she wants to know who planned, programmed and paid for the calls.

Interim Liberal Leader Bob Rae says his party is now aware of 27 ridings affected by calls that directed voters to non-existent polling places — the NDP says 29 ridings were targeted.

May was among those who called on the Speaker of the House of Commons to convene an emergency debate and Prime Minister Stephen Harper to order a probe, in addition to police and Elections Canada investigations already said to be underway.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

For more local news, visit metronews.ca/vancouver

KENDRA WONG/METRO

▶ Rio owner and general manager Corinne Lea speaks at a press conference Monday with director Joel Heath.

Rio Theatre takes liquor battle to the streets

Theatre owner calls for venues to be allowed to lock up alcohol during events without bar service

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The Rio Theatre is taking matters into its own hands with a series of public protests against what they call unreasonable and unfair provincial liquor licences that may force the theatre to shut its doors.

"I can't take this anymore and I have no choice but to fight," said Corinne Lea, owner of the Rio Theatre. "I don't think they realize how much this theatre means to us."

In January, B.C.'s Liquor Control and Licensing Branch told the 74-year-old theatre on Broadway at Commercial Drive that liquor laws prohibited it from operating as both a live venue and movie theatre.

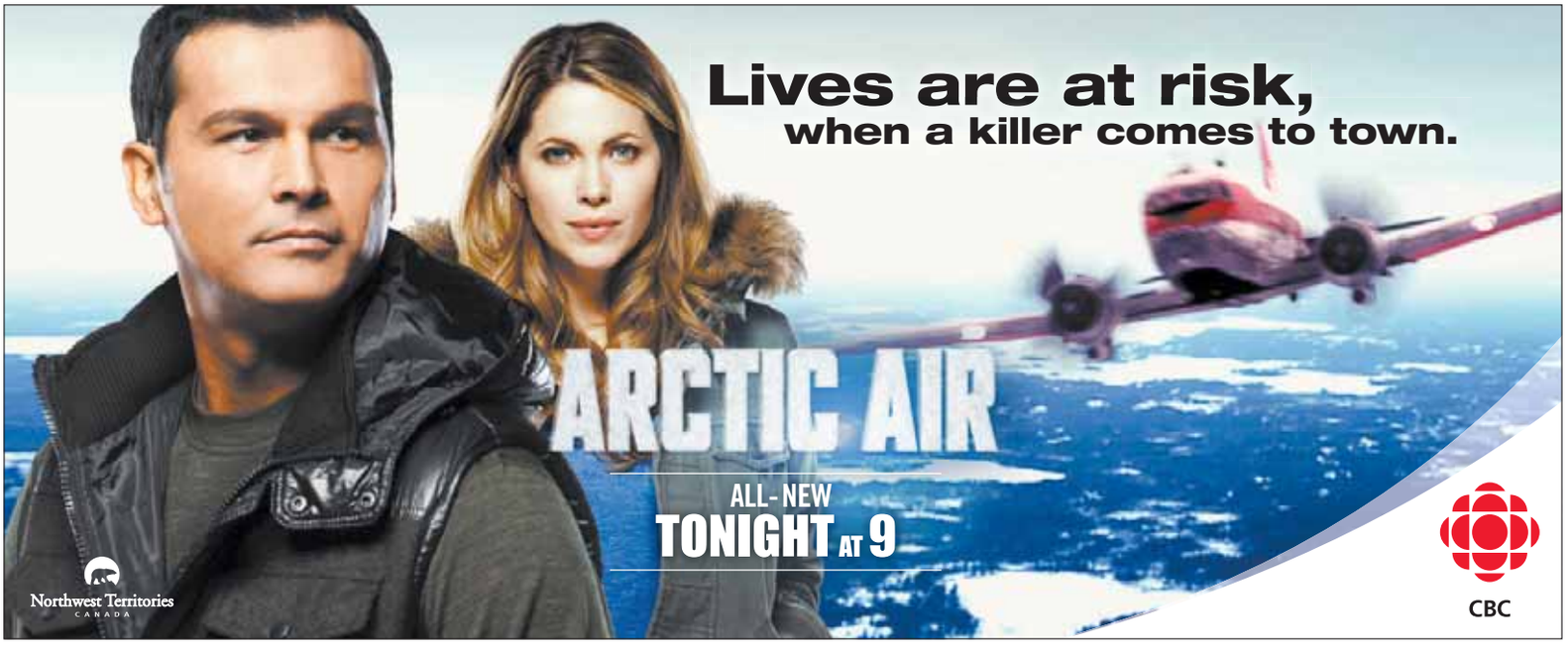
"Unrealistic" liquor laws, including one that requires the theatre to pay $110 to not serve alcohol during movies, have forced the Rio to cancel some of its movie screenings, hindering the theatre's business, Lea said.

"I'm stuck between the choice to cancel our scheduled programming and go out of business or face $3,000 to $10,000 in fines that could inevitably put me out of business," she said.

According to Lea, the solution is simple: Allow venues to lock up alcohol when they have events without bar service.

"We should be trusted to lock up our own alcohol as law-abiding citizens," she added.

Lea estimates that 60 per cent of events at the Rio are live and 40 per cent are non-live or all-ages events.



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MOTION PASSED

MPs agree to support robocall probe

The House of Commons unanimously passed a motion Monday calling on all MPs to do everything they can to aid an investigation into alleged vote suppression during last spring's election.

The NDP motion asks all MPs to turn over to the RCMP and Elections Canada all information they have on the "despicable" phone campaign aimed at discouraging opposition supporters from voting.

The motion also asks all parties to immediately turn over all documents related to the investigation.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservatives supported the motion, even though it's their party that's been accused of conducting the dirty-tricks phone campaign, in which voters in several dozen ridings were either harassed or given false information on the location of polling stations.

The Tories deny the charges.

"The calls in question are calls the Conservative Party of Canada placed to its own supporters," Harper said during question period.

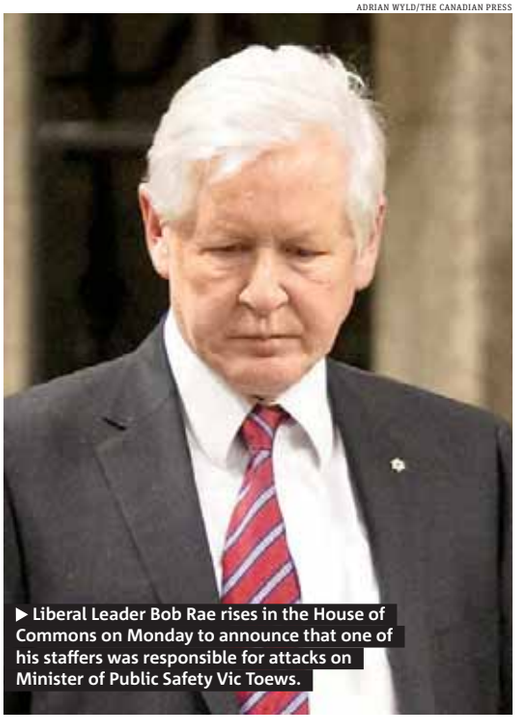
"If the NDP has any information that inappropriate calls were placed, and we certainly have information in some cases and we have given that to Elections Canada, then I challenge that party to produce that information and give it to Elections Canada."

Commons Speaker Andrew Scheer rejected a Liberal request for an emergency debate on the controversy since Elections Canada and the police are already investigating the matter.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Grits take blame for Vikileaks

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Liberal Leader Bob Rae rises in the House of Commons on Monday to announce that one of his staffers was responsible for attacks on Minister of Public Safety Vic Toews.

Rae reveals one of his staffers was behind Toews-baiting campaign

A Liberal party researcher has resigned for tweeting salacious information about Public Safety Minister Vic Toews to protest the government's online surveillance bill.

Interim Liberal Leader Bob Rae told a stunned House of Commons that one of his staffers was responsible for creating the Vikileaks30 Twitter account that circulated alleged details of Toews' divorce.

Rae said the offending staffer — later identified as Adam Carroll — had resigned, and the leader extended a full apology to Toews.

"I discussed the matter with that individual this morning. He offered his resignation and I've accepted his resignation," Rae told the Commons.

Rae said one of the things that makes public life difficult is when "political attacks become personal."

"I want to offer to the minister my personal apology to him for the conduct of the member of my staff."
INTERIM LIBERAL LEADER BOB RAE

Two weeks ago, Toews was pilloried on the web over his sponsorship of the controversial Internet surveillance bill.

The legislation has alarmed civil libertarians because it would allow authorities access to Internet subscriber information — including name, address, telephone number and email address — without a warrant. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Investigators look to black box for clues in VIA derailment

Railway officials grappled Monday with the deaths of three of their own in a "rare" deadly passenger-train derailment as investigators focused on a black box that captured the crew's final moments — crucial evidence in the case.

Three locomotive engineers were killed in Sunday's devastating crash in Burlington, Ont., west of Toronto. It was the first time in more than a decade that VIA Rail employees were killed aboard one of the company's trains in a derailment.

Two of the engineers, Peter Snarr, 52, and Ken Simmonds, 56, both of Toronto, were experienced drivers, each with more than 30 years in the industry, VIA said. A trainee, Patrick Robinson, 40, of Cornwall, Ont., joined them in the cab to observe, though investigators haven't ruled out the possibility that he was driving at some point.

PAWEL DWULIT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Flowers and a sign are seen Monday near the crash site of the VIA Rail train derailment in Burlington, Ont.

As investigators pored over the wreckage, the head of VIA Rail said the derailment that killed the men and injured 45 passengers has sent shockwaves through the close-knit company. In an afternoon visit to the site, VIA president and CEO Marc Laliberté called the collision "tragic," but stressed it was a rare occurrence. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Safety record

- Hundreds of non-fatal derailments are reported each year, the majority of them involving freight trains on secondary lines.
- The most recent deaths recorded aboard a VIA Rail train were in 1999. Two engineers were killed after a train jumped the tracks and plowed into parked freight cars in Thamesville, Ont.

Industry Minister Paradis fires back in ethics dispute

Industry Minister Christian Paradis says he is examining his options — including legal ones — amid calls for an investigation into the transfer of an employment-insurance processing centre into his riding.

Paradis says there was an open process to choose the new location and he's outraged at the suggestion of unethical activity.

The NDP is asking the federal ethics commissioner to investigate. It says there was no reason to move the centre from Rimouski, which is in one of the party's Quebec ridings, to Thetford Mines.

The new site is held by Paradis in one of the few Quebec ridings held by the Conservatives. Paradis is Prime Minister Stephen Harper's lieutenant in the province.

A Montreal newspaper reported last week that the centre will rent an office from a business partner of Paradis' father.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jury selection underway in Tori Stafford murder trial

Jury selection began Monday in the trial of a man accused of killing an eight-year-old girl who went missing outside her southwestern Ontario school.

Michael Rafferty, 31, is charged with first-degree murder, sexual assault causing bodily harm and kidnapping in the death of Victoria Stafford.

The trial proper is expected to begin next week and last three months, though Superior Court Judge Thomas Heeney told potential jurors Monday that the trial could last into June.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DAVE CHIDLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

▶ Victoria "Tori" Stafford

Iqaluit housing-complex fire leaves dozens homeless

Dozens of Nunavut students are homeless and without any of their possession after a fire razed an apartment block in the middle of a frigid Arctic night in Iqaluit.

Officials said Monday that two people living in the building had not been located by mid-afternoon. RCMP were not confirming any injuries or deaths in the blaze, which began late Sunday night.

There was, however, no doubt about the fire's impact. "Most people have lost everything," Iqaluit Mayor Madeleine Redfern said Monday.

Fire broke out in the 22-unit building about 10 p.m. Sunday in -50 C temperatures, Redfern said. Witnesses said the blaze began in a central unit and spread quickly as it was whipped along by heavy winds.

Most of the residents were students at Nunavut Arctic College and their family members.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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$18,900	1 bd/1 bath	Orlando	$110,000	Condo
$15,500	1 bd/1 bath	Orlando	$123,000	Condo
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$23,777	1 bd/1 bath	Las Vegas	$179,000	Condo
$22,900	2 bd/1 bath	Las Vegas	$135,000	Condo
$24,800	3 bd/2 bath	Las Vegas	$205,000	Condo
$24,500	2 bd/2 bath	Las Vegas	$189,000	Condo

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$17,900	3 bd/2 bath	Phoenix	$205,000	Home
$19,900	3 bd/2 bath	Phoenix	$125,000	Condo
$23,900	2 bd/1 bath	Phoenix	$145,000	Home
$25,000	3 bd/1 bath	Phoenix	$189,000	Home
$27,900	2 bd/1 bath	Phoenix	$124,000	Condo
$27,900	3 bd/2 bath	Phoenix	$155,000	Home
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Putin warns the West

Russian PM campaigns on anti-U.S. message ◐ Warns West to stay out of Syrian conflict ◐ Says U.S. trying to start uprisings in Russia

Prime Minister Vladimir Putin warned against military intervention in Syria or an attack on Iran in scathing criticism of the West on Monday as he laid out his foreign-policy priorities less than a week before Russia's presidential election. Putin said the West had backed the Arab Spring to advance its interests in the region, and that instead of promoting democracy the revolts had given rise to religious extremism.

Anti-Western rhetoric has been a key part of Putin's campaign.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GOVERNMENT PRESS SERVICE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin speaks at a meeting outside Moscow yesterday.

Study: Rich people not as ethical

A new study says rich people are more likely to engage in unethical behaviour than their poorer counterparts.

That's the finding from researchers at the University of California and the University of Toronto, published today in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

In two tests, researchers found that upper-class drivers were more likely to cut off other cars and pedestrians at crosswalks.

The researchers used age, vehicle make and appearance to assess drivers' social class.

In another series of tests involving undergraduate students and adults, researchers found that those who consider themselves "upper class" were more likely to take valued items from others, lie during negotiations and cheat to increase their chances of winning a prize.

The authors of the study added that there are also many examples of ethical behaviour amongst more affluent people, such as philanthropic work.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Consistent

The findings in the tests were consistent across age, gender, ethnicity, religion and political orientation of the participants.

India probes borrower suicides

The government of India's Andhra Pradesh state said Monday it would push prosecutors to move ahead with 76 criminal cases against employees of Indian lenders it believes were involved with driving borrowers to suicide.

The comments came in response to an Associated Press story that showed, despite denials, that top officials from India's SKS Microfinance had information that implicated its employees in borrower suicides. SKS is a leader in India's microfinance industry, which gives small loans to the poor.

R. Subrahmanyam, principal secretary for rural development in Andhra Pradesh, said the story spurred state officials to attend to the cases.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

Christian sites attacked

JERUSALEM. A top Roman Catholic official has asked Israel's president to help put an end to anti-Christian graffiti attacks on Christian holy sites. Pierbattista Pizzaballa sent a letter Sunday asking President Shimon Peres to help eradicate "this dangerous phenomenon."

135 deaths reported

SYRIA. A Syrian activist group said Monday that 135 people have been killed across the country, including 64 who died while fleeing an embattled area in the central city of Homs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shannen's Dream moves closer to reality

Campaign started by teen who died in car accident Motion calls for improving First Nations education to provincial standards

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chelsea Edwards, a friend of the late Shannen Koostachin, and Shannen's father Andrew at a press conference on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Monday.

A teenage student from Attawapiskat was in Ottawa Monday to witness what could be a major turning point in her campaign to improve education in First Nations across the country.

Sixteen-year-old Chelsea Edwards is the face of the Shannen's Dream campaign, named after her good friend Shannen Koostachin, who died in an accident in 2010.

Like Shannen, Chelsea wants to see her reserve and many others like it gain the wherewithal to build a solid school and provide an education that is as good as what non-native kids would get off-reserve.

"I'm hoping that the federal government will actually put words into action and step up to the plate and say enough is enough."
CHELSEA EDWARDS, STUDENT AND ACTIVIST

The House of Commons voted unanimously in favour of an NDP motion on Monday night calling for funding that would put First Nations schools on an equal footing with provincial schools.

It passed with the support of the governing Conservatives.

"Knowing that they'll be debating it in the House of Commons, it's a huge thing," the soft-spoken, yet clearly determined, Grade 11 student said in an interview before the win on Sunday.

Chelsea went to elementary classes in a collection of chilly portables next to contaminated land on her reserve near James Bay.

A recent federal First Nations task force found that at least 100 schools across the country were unfit for learning — adding to the problems that mean less than half the students on reserves ever graduate from high school.

Those conditions prompted Shannen, also from Attawapiskat, to spearhead a student-led lobbying campaign for decent schools and education.

Four years ago, Shannen confronted then-Indian Affairs minister Chuck Strahl and was nominated for an International Children's Peace Prize. She died in a car accident in 2010 at the age of 15.

Chelsea, with the help of her MP Charlie Angus, picked up where Shannen left off.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Foreign Affairs: Best to pack your (fake) hubby overseas

Single Canadian women travelling alone who don't want to be hit on by men should wear a fake wedding ring and have a photo handy of their imaginary husband, says a new travel guide issued by Foreign Affairs Canada.

The tips, included in a safe-travel guide entitled Her Own Way — A Woman's Safe-Travel Guide and released by the government ministry earlier this month, are designed to keep women safe, especially if they are travelling by themselves.

"Wear a (fake) wedding ring. Also carry a photo of your husband (or an imaginary one), which you can show to persistent suitors. Being seen as married will lower your profile and stave off uninvited advances," states the guide under the heading of Avoiding Sexual Harassment.

NDP MP Jenny Sims in B.C. admitted she at first giggled when she read about the phoney-wedding-ring directive.

"Every step we take to protect women is good …. but I must admit I had a bit of a giggle as well," said Sims, the deputy critic for Foreign Affairs.

The guide recommends that women not wear miniskirts or tank tops if the fashion is not common in the country being visited.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Travel tips

- **Lock doors.** If travelling by car, always lock the doors to prevent carjackers and thieves from getting in with you. Fill up the tank when half empty to avoid running out of gas in unsafe areas.
- **Be aware.** Stay alert and aware of your surroundings. Minimize alcohol consumption and don't use, carry or get involved in illegal drugs.
- **Careful at night.** Take extra precautions if you go out at night. Understand that, in many parts of the world, "decent" women don't go out alone after dark.
- **Wear a scarf.** If you are fair-haired in a country where most women are dark-skinned you may attract unwanted attention. Consider wearing a scarf or hat.

Ontario appeals gun sentence

An Ontario judge was wrong to declare a mandatory minimum sentence unconstitutional and "cruel and unusual punishment," the province writes in starting an appeal of the ruling.

Superior Court Judge Anne Molloy struck down a three-year minimum sentence for a first offence of illegally possessing a loaded gun earlier this month, running directly contrary to the position Ottawa is taking with sentencing.

In the case before Molloy, Toronto man Leroy Smickle was taking pictures of himself for his Facebook account posing with a loaded gun when police burst into an apartment looking for someone else. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sentence 'unfit'

The five-month conditional sentence imposed on Smickle is "demonstrably unfit," the Ontario government writes. Premier Dalton McGuinty has said he supports mandatory minimums for all gun offences.

Many offer a home for dog that killed newborn

Animal lovers from across the country are volunteering to adopt a pet husky that killed a newborn baby in southern Alberta.

At least a dozen people have made requests through the city of Airdrie and many more have sent messages to the baby's parents.

The two-day-old baby boy was bitten Feb. 15 in the couple's home in the bedroom community north of Calgary. He died later that night in hospital.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Premiers trade barbs over oilsands

Alberta Premier Alison Redford says she is surprised and a little disappointed by comments from her Ontario counterpart over the oilsands.

Redford was reacting to comments from Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty, who publicly rejected her calls to do more to advocate for the oilsands.

McGuinty said the booming industry means a higher Canadian dollar, which hurts Ontario's manufacturing sector and exports.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

1 dead, 4 wounded in Ohio school shooting

Student described as an outcast arrested after attack at suburban high school Charges not immediately laid

THOMAS ONDREY/THE PLAIN DEALER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ A distraught student leaves the school grounds with her mother following a shooting in Chardon, Ohio, on Monday.

A teenager opened fire in the cafeteria at his suburban high school Monday, killing one student and wounding four others before he was chased from the building by a teacher and captured a short distance away, authorities said.

A student who saw the attack up close said it appeared that the gunman targeted a group of students sitting together and that the one who was killed was gunned down while trying to duck under the cafeteria table.

FBI officials would not comment on a motive. Police Chief Tim McKenna said authorities "have a lot of homework to do yet" in their investigation of the shooting, which sent students screaming through the halls at the start of the school day at Chardon High.

Teachers locked down their classrooms as they had been trained to do during drills, and students took cover as they waited for the all-clear in the town of 5,100 people 48 kilometres from Cleveland.

One teacher was said to have dragged a wounded student into his classroom for protection. Another chased the gunman out of the building, police said.

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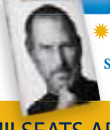

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Murdoch's Sun tabloid bribed sources: Police

Accusation follows launch of Sunday edition Inquiry shifts from press practices to corruption

Rupert Murdoch's top-selling U.K. tabloid, The Sun, had a culture of making illegal payments to corrupt public officials in return for stories, a senior police officer said Monday, as Murdoch announced that the paper's first-ever Sunday edition had sold more than three-million copies.

Sue Akers, a Metropolitan Police deputy assistant commissioner, told Britain's media ethics inquiry that the newspaper openly referred to paying its sources and that such payments had been authorized at a senior level.

Her comments came the day Murdoch's company paid former teen singing sensation Charlotte Church $949,020 in a phone-hacking settlement for violating her privacy.

Akers said Sun journalists had paid not only police officers but also military, health and other government officials. One official received a total of $126,536 over several years, Akers said, and one journalist had been given more than $237,255 in cash to pay his sources. She said payments went far beyond acceptable practices such as buying sources a meal or a drink.

"A network of corrupted officials" had provided The Sun with stories that were mostly "salacious gossip," said Akers. She did not indicate when or if payments had ended, but Murdoch insisted that practices have changed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Germany gives nod to Greece's second bailout

The German parliament approved a second, $173-billion US loan package for Greece on Monday after Chancellor Angela Merkel warned lawmakers that it would be irresponsible to abandon the country to bankruptcy. Although the motion was always expected to be approved — the idea of bailing out Greece has remained very unpopular in Germany among the public and many politicians. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Picture. Screen

▶ A man draws a picture on a new Samsung Galaxy Note at the Mobile World Congress, the world's largest mobile-phone trade show, in Barcelona on Monday.

MANU FERNANDEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spain hosts a host of phones

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. FRIDAY

TSX	Dollar	Oil	Natural gas	Gold
- 5.52 (12,725.77)	- 0.21¢ (100.03¢ US)	+ $1.90 US ($109.70 US)	$2.55 US (- 7¢ US)	$1,776.40 US (+ $9.90 US)

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NEXT PHASE OF CANADA'S ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

Canada

LOOKING FOR LOVE IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA

SHE SAYS ...

JESSICA NAPIER
METRO

We all have our vices. Some people smoke, some drink, some binge on Oreos. My sin of choice is a not-so-healthy interest in (ahem, obsession with) bad reality television, particularly The Bachelor.

I remember watching the first episode of the now-infamous dating show in high school. Ten years and 16 seasons later, I still love watching doe-eyed dental hygienists compete for the affections of rose-wielding Prince Charmings.

Knowing the success rate of these made-for-TV romances, you have to wonder who on Earth would ever sign up for this show?

When the national casting call for The Bachelor Canada came to town, I knew I had to stop by. I needed to find out how so many smart, successful, attractive women end up looking for love in the most public and potentially humiliating way possible.

When I arrived at the auditions, I was surprised and a bit disappointed to enter a room full of normal-looking ladies. No crazy models or emotional basket cases, just average women dressed in their best first-date outfits. Where were the vapid fame whores, the mentally unstable divorcees, the hopelessly romantic cheerleaders, and why weren't any of them in evening gowns?

"When I arrived at the auditions, I was surprised and a bit disappointed to enter a room full of normal-looking ladies. No crazy models or emotional basket cases, just average women dressed in their best first date outfits."

None of the women I saw were past their primes — many of them were barely of legal drinking age — so why were they resorting to reality television in order to find The One?

Rachel, a 29-year-old banker, told me that it just happens to be the right timing for her. "I'm pretty adventurous," she said, "so why not give it a try?" Personally, I can think of a million reasons why, but I had to admire her confidence.

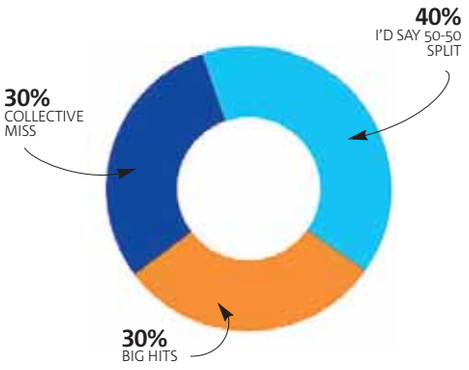
But how do these hopeful contestants plan on dealing with the pressure and the inevitable infighting that comes along with this not-so-monogamous dating situation? Twenty-eight-year-old Barbra told me that she might not get along with everyone on the show, but she plans on treating it like a job. "You don't necessarily like your co-workers," she said. "But you make an effort to tolerate them in order to get the job done." Maybe that's true, but your co-workers aren't hooking up with your boyfriend in an adjacent hot tub.

Ultimately, most of the hopeful bachelorettes were pretty sincere and genuinely hoping to fall in love. I guess if you haven't met anyone through your friends and you've failed at online dating, going in front of the camera to look for Mr. Right is just the next logical option for today's single ladies.

Read more of Jessica Napier's columns at metronews.ca/shesays

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Oscar 2012 fashion — hit or miss?



Local tweets

- **@wyshynski:** Very impressed the #Sabres traded for Cody Hodgson years before they would have offered him a 10-year UFA deal.
- **@sportsnetmurph:** #canucks send Hodgson to #bruins <#!/search/%23bruins> for Kassian. Wowser.
- **@RhealG:** Tough to see my boy Cody Hodgson get traded #tradecentre
- **@scottalancfox:** @stephendyrgas Stoked to get Kassian but knocked back losing Hodgson. He'll get good minutes in Buffalo. Shame to see him go.
- **@alanackelly:** Omg kassians good but hodgson ? He was suppose to our next linden # heartbroken
- **@Quimeister:** I see all the Hodgson highlights while they analyze this trade, where are the Kassian highlights...? #TryingToKeepTheFaith
- **@brightlightsKL:** I love Cody Hodgson...really :(
- **@5chlo55:** #Canucks Hodgson for Kassian? 1st outright bad deal I've seen Gillis make. Id WAY rather have the rookie on 3rd line on pace to score 20+

Daily Zoom

SANDRO SANTIOLI/SOLENT NEWS

The mystic river

River looks like unearthly tree

ICELAND. With an eerily enchanting landscape, this stunning photo looks like it was taken on an alien planet. But it was actually captured aboard a Cessna light aircraft flying over Iceland. Here, what appears to be a tree is in fact a river running in many different streams. MWN

"There were many challenges. The first was whether I was able to endure the stress of flying in a tiny, vibrating aircraft that would dip suddenly on hitting the air currents."
SANDRO SANTIOLI, PHOTOGRAPHER

Shooting Iceland

- **Racking up air miles.** Santioli spent 70 hours of flight time to capture his images.
- **Coping with the elements.** Windows had to be kept open for the flight, but extreme cold then entered the cabin.

SANDRO SANTIOLI

- **Santioli's favourite photo?** The Blue Lagoon (pictured above). It's of hot springs, but from above it looks like ants in milk.

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2 scene

Scene in brief

The Canadian hockey comedy Goon is scoring big at the theatres. Alliance Films says the hockey flick claimed the top spot at the Canadian box office this weekend. It grossed an estimated $1.2 million. The film stars Seann William Scott and Liev Schreiber as on-ice bruisers who barrel their way through the minor leagues. Goon was written by Jay Baruchel and Evan Goldberg and co-stars Alison Pill. Other films that opened last weekend include the Paul Rudd-Jennifer Aniston comedy Wanderlust, Tyler Perry's Good Deeds and the Navy SEALs flick Act of Valor, which topped the box office south of the border. Director Michael Dowse (Fubar, It's All Gone Pete Tong) shot Goon in Winnipeg and nearby Portage la Prairie, Man.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Singer Charlotte Church looks past phone hacking case after tabloid settlement

OUR OSCAR FAVOURITES

Sure, The Artist won Best Picture. But here's what we'll remember about the 2012 Academy Awards.

THE SINCERE SPEECHES

...mostly devoted to Martin Scorsese. Here's the most popular words from the night's acceptances.

THE BEST DRESSED, ACCORDING TO TWITTER

During the red carpet, these ladies got the most positive buzz.

BEST QUOTE

"BUT WHATEVER."

—Meryl Streep, after saying America may be sick of seeing her at the Oscars.

THE BIGGEST LAUGH

The Wizard of Oz focus group—a reunion of Waiting for Guffman stars Christopher Guest, Eugene Levy, Fred Willard and more. Said Willard's audience member:

"I DIDN'T LIKE IT TILL THEY GOT TO THE FLYING MONKEYS."

Close second: Justin Bieber.

ANGIE'S LEG

When taking the stage to introduce the Best Screenplay categories, Jolie struck a curiously powerful pose, exposing most of her right leg. The move inspired some instant imitation, a new Internet meme called "legbombing." Here's a look at her leg's impact, by the numbers.

Tweets per minute posted about Jolie after her leg-baring appearance: 3,399

Number of followers the new Twitter account @AngiesRightLeg collected within four hours of its creation: 8,511

Number of Oscar winners to parody the strong pose: 2 (Descendants co-writers Jim Rash and Nat Faxon)

Billy's blackface sparks Twitter talk

Some are questioning Billy Crystal's impression of Sammy Davis Jr. in his opening number as Oscar host. As part of Crystal's opening montage, he parodied Woody Allen's Midnight in Paris, going back in time to the 1920s. Then Crystal, performing as Davis in blackface, popped up and suggested they go kill Hitler.

Crystal played Davis the same way many times on Saturday Night Live in the 1980s, but that didn't stop hundreds from questioning the bit on Twitter.

When Octavia Spencer won supporting actress for The Help, comedian Paul Scheer tweeted her win "shows just how far we've come since Billy Crystal performed in Blackface."

A-Listers pack Vanity Fair's Oscar after-party

On Sunday, Vanity Fair's held its always compact A-list Academy Award after-party at West Hollywood's Sunset Tower Hotel, one of several parties following the 84th annual Academy Awards at the Hollywood & Highland Center. Starlets and Oscar nominees and winners mingled. Jonah Hill, nominated for as best supporting actor for Moneyball, smiled and shouted out a sassy expletive decrying his and the film's loss, surrounded by a pack of friends, including Seth Rogen. Rogen, who hosted Saturday's Film Independent Spirit Awards, also laughed and drank with fellow funny guy Jason Segel, star of The Muppets movie.

In one corner booth tucked to the side of the party's outdoor patio, Gwyneth Paltrow held court with her Coldplay husband Chris Martin and silver screen vet Jane Fonda, while talking with Cameron Diaz.

Sean Young arrested at post-Oscars bash

Los Angeles police say actress Sean Young was placed under citizen's arrest after a fight at the official post-Oscars party. The 52-year-old star of Blade Runner and Stripes was arrested at the Governor's Ball at 9:25 p.m. Sunday and was booked at the Hollywood police station for investigation of misdemeanour battery. City News Service says she posted $20,000 bail and was released at 2:55 a.m. Monday. Police Sgt. Enrique Mend wouldn't give details about the incident.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DVD reviews

Buy it ◍◍◍◍◍ | Rent it ◍◍◍◍ | Borrow it ◍◍◍ | Yawn ◍◍ | Don't bother ◍

Hugo
Genre: Adventure
Director: Martin Scorsese
Stars: Asa Butterfield, Chloë Grace Moretz, Ben Kingsley
◍◍◍

▶ Hugo

Movie magic hangs in the air of Martin Scorsese's Hugo, much like the steam and dust that fills almost every frame.

Scorsese sets his first family-friendly film in a 1930's Paris train station of wonder and mystery. He's actually made two movies, only one of which fully resonates. That's his second-half homage to movie pioneers like Georges Méliès, whose 1902 film A Trip to the Moon was groundbreaking. But to get there you have to negotiate the first hour, which is a bit of slog.

Neither Scorsese nor screenwriter John Logan seem to know what to do with the title character, a young orphan living within the steamy confines of Gare Montparnasse. Hugo (Asa Butterfield, not quite ready for this much screen time) is trying to build the automaton he was working on with his late father (Jude Law) before he died. It is Hugo's search for parts that takes him to the toy store of Georges Méliès (a superb Ben Kingsley).

PETER HOWELL

Johnny English Reborn
Genre: Comedy
Director: Oliver Parker
Stars: Rowan Atkinson
◍◍½

Having worn out his welcome with his interminable Mr. Bean character — his Chaplin/Hulot copycat finally fizzled with the flatulent Mr. Bean's Holiday in 2007 — Rowan Atkinson seems determined to do the same with Johnny English, his parody spy stumbler.

Despite a deafening lack of public roar for a sequel to Johnny English, Atkinson (or his banker) has deduced the need, eight years later, for another raid on the Austin Powers/Get Smart! playbook of James Bond buffoonery.

This time, British MI7 agent Johnny English is tasked with stopping the planned assassination of the visiting Chinese premier, because no other agent is available, of course.

Oliver Parker (Dorian Gray) directs, Hamish McColl (Mr. Bean's Holiday) writes and the story comes from William Davies, who wrote the first Johnny English and also the significantly better How to Train Your Dragon.

▶ Johnny English Reborn

That's a lot of credit for what is little more than warmed-over Austin Powers antics and Get Smart! gadgetry.

PETER HOWELL

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The leg that launched a thousand memes

Angelina Jolie's Oscar stance still subject of much discussion

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

ALL PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

▶ Angelina Jolie

It's two days after the Oscars and the world isn't talking about how Billy Crystal did as a host (meh!), who won (The Artist! A lot!), or who lost (Viola Davis, you were robbed!).

Nope. The world is focused on one thing: Angelina Jolie's leg.

Her awkward red carpet stance, in which she made sure her right leg was constantly on display through the slit in her black velvet Atelier Versace gown, is a pose that has launched a thousand Internet memes.

There's a Twitter handle — @AngiesRightLeg — that is nearing 15,000 followers with tweets like, "You have to admit I'm one hell of a leg!" and also a Tumblr account entitled "Angelina Jolie'ing," where readers can upload photos of themselves showing off their ashy thighs.

There's no reason for why she stood like that, time and time again. (My theory: Her bony leg was poking out to sniff around for a sandwich.)

But perhaps the funniest mocking of the leg came from The Descendants co-writer Jim Rash, who hit the stage with Alexander Payne and Nat Faxon to accept the award for Best Adapted Screenplay. The look was quickly imitated by Rash and Faxon, but the scribes insist they weren't mocking the actress.

"She's supremely hot," Faxon said backstage at the awards show, while Rash was quick to explain his actions: "I just saw her pose and I thought, you know what, we have exactly the same legs," the writer, who also stars in the sitcom Community, said.

"It was more like, 'Oh, she's standing great, I'm going to stand like that, too.'"

Rash better watch it. No one mocks Angelina Jolie in front of her face and gets away with it.

The last person to do that was Billy Bob Thornton, and we're pretty sure he's currently working at a Cracker Barrel in Parissapany, N.J.

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How to $tay $ane

You worry about money — maybe a little too much Charles Richards, psychotherapist and author of The Psychology of Wealth, tells us how to find the balance

ROMINA McGUINNESS
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

On this page, we often write about relationships — with food, exercise, significant others. But it's time we addressed a topic that's equally influential, and sometimes completely dysfunctional: your relationship with money.

According to Charles Richards, author of The Psychology of Wealth, money doesn't just indicate power, but has power — we are infused by its energy. And if you're not prepared to manage that energy constructively, it will manage you, often negatively. Here are four typical situations on how to deal.

I've lost my job and my money. How can I find the will to live?

"Situations can change in a heartbeat, so when your identity is tied to what you have or what you do, it's a dangerous place to live from," says Richards. "If being rich, popular and successful gives you meaning and for some tragic reason you can't be that person anymore, you could think your life is over. Connect with a deeper part of yourself (spiritual belief or meditation) that goes beyond what you have and what you do."

I'm petrified of failure.

"Don't let fear of failure stop you from moving forward," says Richards. "Successful people fail many times but they just persevere and take full responsibility for what is going on. Failure is a problem but there's always a way out of it, just as long as you use a little initiative to find out what that is."

All I want in life is to make money. Is that healthy?

"You can be rich financially but have a poverty of soul if that wealth is just self serving. Anyone aiming for greater financial success should serve a higher purpose (philanthropic or spiritual, environmental or health) or strive to empower others."

All this recession talk is making me anxious. How can I stay upbeat despite the current financial turmoil?

Stop listening to the messages of doom and gloom all the time. "Do you want it to be your reality? No, so shut out the drumbeat that comes from the media. Yes, there's a reality to what's going on but if you allow yourself to be influenced by the media bombardment about financial meltdown and hardship then it's going to become a reality for you. Don't assume it's going to become your truth and it won't."

I'm in financial trouble — I can't think, I can't sleep and I'm super stressed!

You can't ignore the practical reality. You have to face it head on.

"Make a plan with clear goals to ease the stress and turn the situation around.

This will take discipline, delayed gratification, practical thinking and decision-making. Financial challenges can be positive in that they stimulate creativity as you are forced to find a way out. Once your self worth is healthier you tend to be more expansive in your thinking. You won't be successful until you are willing to take responsibility."

The biggest losers

One third of multi-million dollar lottery winners lose all their new-found wealth — and often end up worse off than before they won.

$5.4M Evelyn Adams hit the jackpot twice but that didn't stop her from wasting winnings on her gambling addiction. She ended up broke and living in a trailer park.

$1.9M Welshman Luke Pittard spent it all on a trip to the Canary Islands, a house and a wedding. And just 18 months later he was flipping burgers at McDonalds.

$93K Lindsay Lohan didn't exactly win the lottery but being a child star is similar in the luck department. Celebrity website TMZ reports that the actress hasn't paid her income tax since 2009.

THE GOOD-WELL MEN

These guys love making money and love giving it away.

WARREN BUFFETT

One of the richest men in the world, Buffett is known as being ruthlessly frugal with his money. This hasn't stopped him from donating an estimated 99 per cent of his fortune to charity.

BILL GATES

The Microsoft founder and his wife, Melinda, use their money (an estimated $56 billion) to fund the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which tackles poverty in developing countries.

3 life

Up trend

Adele

Throat surgery may have stopped her from singing, but not from swearing. The rumour she was taking a five-year break from singing is false – phew. We just want her to keep dating bad boys and keep getting dumped so she can keep on making albums for us to enjoy.

Health Canada reviewing MS drug Gilenya, linked to 11 deaths outside Canada

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Burrata Pizza ($18)

Back in my early years, any old pizza was a treat. As long as there was cheese and a crust, I was a happy camper.

With the eruption of Vancouver pizzerias — including my latest discovery, Novo — standards have skyrocketed.

September marked the opening of Kitsilano's newest pizzeria, which, at first glance resembles a chain restaurant. But just wait 'til the pizza arrives.

The Burrata that I swooned over at Novo ranks second to the life changing pie I ate at Naples' Antica Pizzeria da Michele (as seen on Oprah).

In other words, it was one of the best I've had.

Novo's crust (including the triangle tips) was wonderfully crispy. Lip-smacking pools of olive oil, room temperature hunks of burrata and a moist blanket of mozza lay on top.

Novo isn't just great for lunch. Check out its $49 Monday night deal that includes three-courses and two Fifth Ave. movie tickets. It's time to catch up on Oscar winners, anyways. Buon divertimento!

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THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Indian Raita Slaw

Preparation:

1. In bowl, combine yogurt, mayonnaise, cucumber, lime juice, honey, cumin seeds, mint and pepper, mixing well. Add cabbage and carrot; toss to coat.
2. Chill for at least 1 hour before serving. Toss again before serving.

FOODLAND ONTARIO/ THE CANADIAN PRESS/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS (VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)

Ingredients:

- 175 ml (3/4 cup) plain yogurt
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) reduced-fat mayonnaise
- 250 ml (1 cup) finely diced cucumber
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) lime juice
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) honey
- 7 ml (1 1/2 tsp) toasted cumin seeds
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) chopped fresh mint
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) freshly ground black pepper
- 1 L (4 cups) shredded green cabbage
- 1 carrot, coarsely grated

Succulent & warming

Chicken Korma, an Indian stew makes tasty meal

THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

This recipe serves four to six.

Preparation:

1. In bowl, combine coriander, cumin, turmeric, salt, and black and cayenne peppers. Cut chicken thighs into 3 pieces; toss with spice mix to coat.
2. In a deep non-stick large skillet, heat oil over medium heat; cook onions, stirring occasionally for about 10 minutes or until browned. Add garlic, ginger, bay leaves and cardamom pods, if using; cook for 5 minutes. Add chicken; cook, stirring, for about 5 minutes or until lightly browned.
3. Add tomatoes and broth; bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer for about 15 minutes or until juices run clear when chicken is pierced. Add cream; cook, uncovered, for 5 minutes. Serve sprinkled with chopped coriander, if using.

FOODLAND ONTARIO/ THE CANADIAN PRESS/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS, PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF (VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)

Ingredients:

- 15 ml (1 tbsp) each ground coriander and ground cumin
- 5 ml (1 tsp) turmeric
- 5 ml (1 tsp) each salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) cayenne pepper
- 1 kg (2 lb) boneless, skinless chicken thighs
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) vegetable oil
- 2 onions, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) finely chopped fresh ginger
- 2 bay leaves
- 8 whole green cardamom pods (optional)
- 250 ml (1 cup) canned crushed tomatoes
- 250 ml (1 cup) sodium-reduced chicken broth
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) 35% whipping cream
- Chopped fresh coriander

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GET YOUR RRSP ON

FUN AND FRUGAL

LESLEY SCORGIE
MONEY@METRONEWS.CA

You only have until tomorrow to make your RRSP contribution for the 2011 tax year; Feb. 29, 2012 is the official deadline. Short on contribution cash? Consider an RRSP loan. Currently, RRSP loans have attractive interest rates, hovering near prime, and have flexible repayment plans. But, it only makes sense to take out an RRSP loan when the taxable benefit you receive from your RRSP contribution is greater than the amount of interest you'll pay on the loan. To help figure out if it's worth it, see an adviser.

The largest benefit of an RRSP loan is that the more you contribute, the more you'll earn through compounded returns. Let's say you decide not to borrow $10,000 to maximize your RRSP at age 30. That $10,000 compounded at nine per cent for 25 years adds up to $86,000 before tax when you're 55. Thus, you would miss out on $76,000 of compounded returns. Meanwhile, your $10,000 RRSP loan at six per cent interest, paid off over 12 months, would cost you less than $350 in interest. Calculate your own borrowing scenario on bankrate.com. You're a good candidate for an RRSP loan if:

- You don't have enough cash to make an RRSP contribution by Feb. 29, 2012
- You have a job and can afford to pay the loan off within 12 months
- You have left over contribution room within your RRSP
- You don't have significant consumer debt; in excess of $5,000.

You buy it, you sell it

ON MONEY

ALISON GRIFFITHS
MONEY@METRONEWS.CA

It used to be that prospective homebuyers would zero in on three places while searching for added value — kitchen, bathroom and rec room. A kitchen island, separate shower and finished basement, preferably with a tiki bar, were guaranteed to draw offers.

Then along came whirlpool tubs, children's wings, great rooms and soaring foyers. But what comes around goes away in the real estate market.

Today, value-conscious buyers and profit-conscious builders are opting for less is more. On the wane are sunrooms, outdoor kitchens, two-storey family rooms and media rooms.

But popular once again are basics such as well-planned spaces, storage and functional (not necessarily fancy) outdoor areas.

The lesson for those house shopping this spring — in the still mostly vibrant Canadian real estate market — is to spend your money on features that are difficult or expensive to add later. The right choices now will pay off when you become a seller. According to a 2011 AVIDBuilder.com survey, Canadian buyers are most eager for the following three home features or qualities:

1. Efficiency The soaring foyer may look great but give it a pass if re-sale value is important. Two-storey rooms and open fireplaces also have reduced appeal because of rising heating costs.

2. Spaces not rooms The number of rooms or overall square-footage is less important than how they fit together. Increasingly buyers are drawn by a home's flow and utility rather than its statistics.

3. Green, green, green This includes not only energy efficiency in windows, appliances and insulation, but also green building products to reduce or eliminate concerns over toxicity.

HANDOUT

▶ Alison's money rule: When home shopping, focus on good bones to achieve the best bang for your real estate buck.

There are three specific home features Canadians adore:

1. Walk-in closets
2. Linen closets
3. Family-style kitchens

While the survey was primarily focused on features desired by Canadians shopping for homes south of the border, they hold true in every real estate market over time.

Conspicuous consumption in a home can appeal temporarily, but if you are shopping for the best value, pay attention to the basics.

ALISON GRIFFITHS IS THE AUTHOR OF COUNT ON YOURSELF: TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR MONEY. REACH HER AT ALISONGRIFFITHS.CA OR GRIFFITHS.ALISON@GMAIL.COM.

THE CASE OF THE BROKEN TOBOGGAN

CHARLES THE BUTLER

ASKCHARLES THEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA

FOR MORE, VISIT CHARLES MACPHERSON.COM

Dear Charles,
Last weekend we borrowed a plastic toboggan from the neighbours. The kids did run over some rocks that damaged the underside of the neighbour's board. As soon as we got home, we went to the store and bought a new one for them, since we damaged theirs.
Now for the dilemma: I intended to give to the neighbours both the old and the new toboggan. But my husband thought, since we are replacing the old one with a new one, we should keep the old one. This has become an interesting debate in our neighbourhood now, with every man on the street indicating they would keep the old one (just like an insurance company pays you money for your damaged car and then keeps the car).
Every woman on the street thinks that the original should be returned, though (we didn't own the original, so we can't just claim it as ours. As well, it is still 'useable' — so why should I end up making a 'profit' from damaging the original and get to have a spare board now). Can you help?
Thank you! Julia

Dear Julia,

I don't know why but this seems like such a simple and clear-cut discussion. No, you cannot keep the damaged toboggan because you are not an insurance company, and your neighbour did not have this item insured with you.

Thus you cannot apply the same rules and logic from the insurance company to yourself.

It was absolutely correct to purchase a replacement and return the new and broken toboggan to your neighbour.

Glad nobody was hurt, and sounds like everyone had a good time!

HAVE A QUESTION? EMAIL CHARLES AT ASKCHARLES-THEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA.

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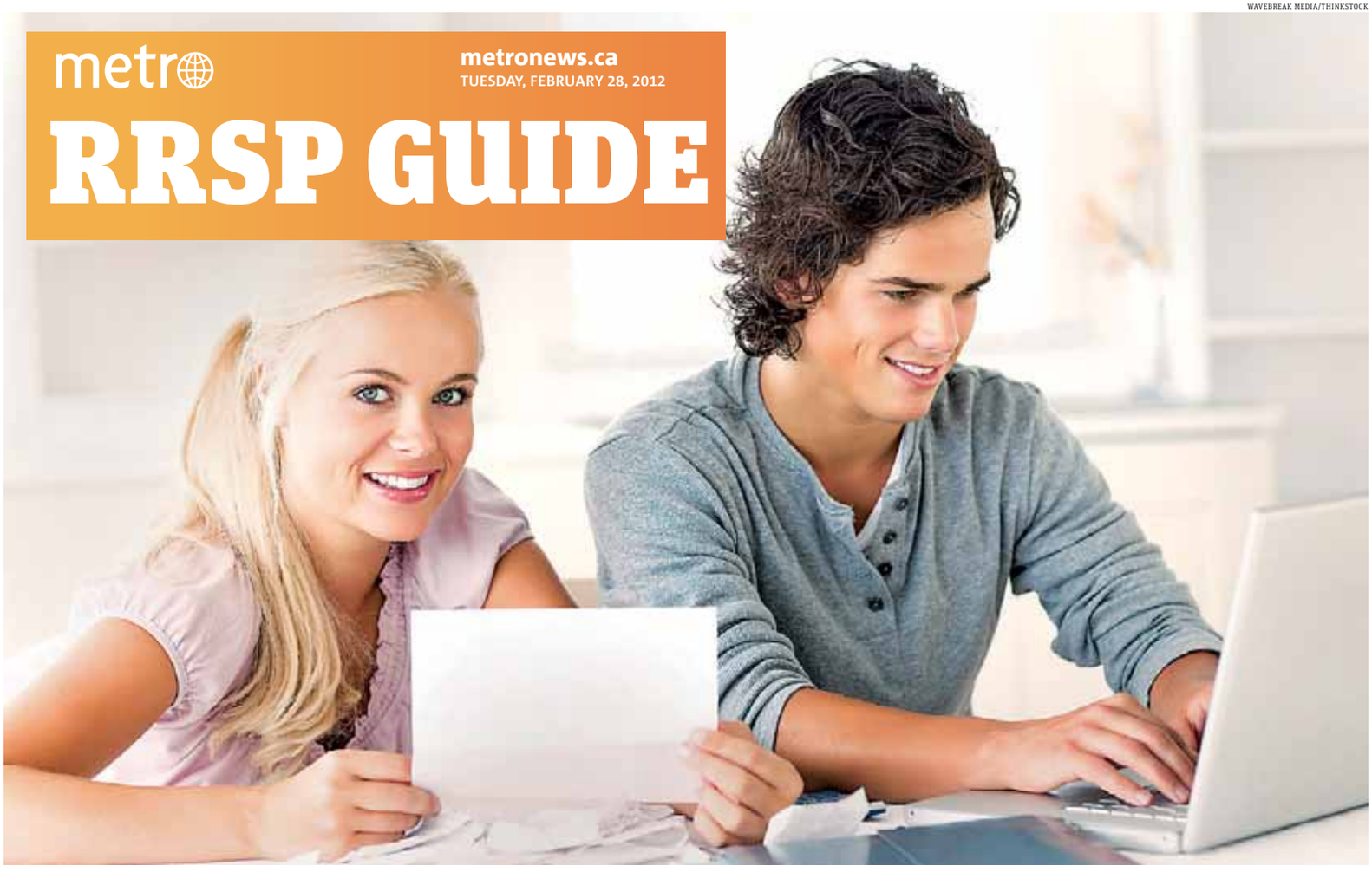
RRSP GUIDE

WAVEBREAK MEDIA/THINKSTOCK



Down to the wire

Last-minute investing advice

JANE DOUCET
FOR METRO

The clock is ticking down to midnight Feb. 29, the final deadline to make your 2011 RRSP contribution. And while there are people who wait until the waning hours to invest, the experts caution against doing so.

"You don't want to rush something as important as your retirement savings and financial future," says Joel Neynens, a certified financial planner and the vice-president of Gordon Stirrett Wealth Management in Halifax.

Neynens offers the following last-minute investing tips:

Allocate your RRSP to a "cash position." When you hand over your RRSP funds to your banker or financial adviser, you don't have to choose on the spot how you want them to be invested.

"Don't feel like you have to decide what type of asset class you have to invest in right away," says Neynens. This way, the money will sit in the "cash position" portion of the account until you are ready to make an investing move. "There's no time limit to doing so," says Neynens. "And you'll still get an RRSP tax receipt."

> **"You don't want to rush something as important as your retirement savings and financial future."**
> JOEL NEYNENS, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF GORDON STIRRETT WEALTH MANAGEMENT

The major downside to this approach is that if you keep the funds in the cash position for an extended period, you won't get the potential rate of return you would if you have invested them.

Get professional advice if you need it. If time is of the essence and you are not comfortable handling your own finances, it's important to seek professional advice — especially if you are just starting to save for the future.

"New investors are often trying to get a handle on what RRSPs and what investments are eligible," says Neynens. "It can be quite confusing."

Don't get down to the wire. Even though the RRSP deadline is midnight, "unless you're investing online, you really only have until whatever time the bank or your financial adviser's office closes on deadline day," says Neynens.

More info

For information about how to set up a registered retirement savings fund, make contributions to an RRSP, receive income from an RRSP, how to make withdrawals from an RRSP and more, visit the Canada Revenue Agency's website at cra-arc.gc.ca and type "RRSP" in the search box.

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Thinking about your child's future

YLVA VAN BUUREN
FOR METRO

With just a few days until the deadline for the RRSP contribution, many families are looking at their savings and wondering if they should use the money for their RRSP or open a registered education savings plan (RESP) for their children?

It's not always an easy decision.

"You really have to look at it not just from a retirement savings, mortgage or education plan point-of-view, but from the entire context," says Anthony Williams, vice-president of academic affairs, Canadian Institute of Financial Planning.

If education savings is a goal, he suggests making an RRSP contribution and, with the tax deduction, use the money to contribute towards your children's education.

"An RESP is a dedicated savings plan for your child's education and you get a government grant ..."

An RESP is a dedicated savings plan for your child's education and you get a government grant, says Williams. It's also tax-deferred saving so there are no tax implications on any of the growth while it's in the plan.

"We have RESPs for both of our kids," says Jill Briggs, a Toronto mom with two boys, Henri, 8, and Elliot, 6.

"We believe that the cost of post-secondary education will be very high by the time our kids are at that stage, and we wanted to ensure that we can afford to send them without crippling ourselves financially. But we also want to be able to help them with the cost so that they don't graduate with huge debt as well."

While there aren't immediate tax benefits, says Jason Round, head of financial planning support for RBC Financial Planning, when you make a contribution, the government will contribute up to $500 under the Canada Education Savings Grant Program into the plan — and that's free money.

The negative is the RESP can only be used for education. If your child doesn't use it for post-secondary education, even though you can take out the amount you have contributed, you have to repay any grants you received and there might be penalties as well.

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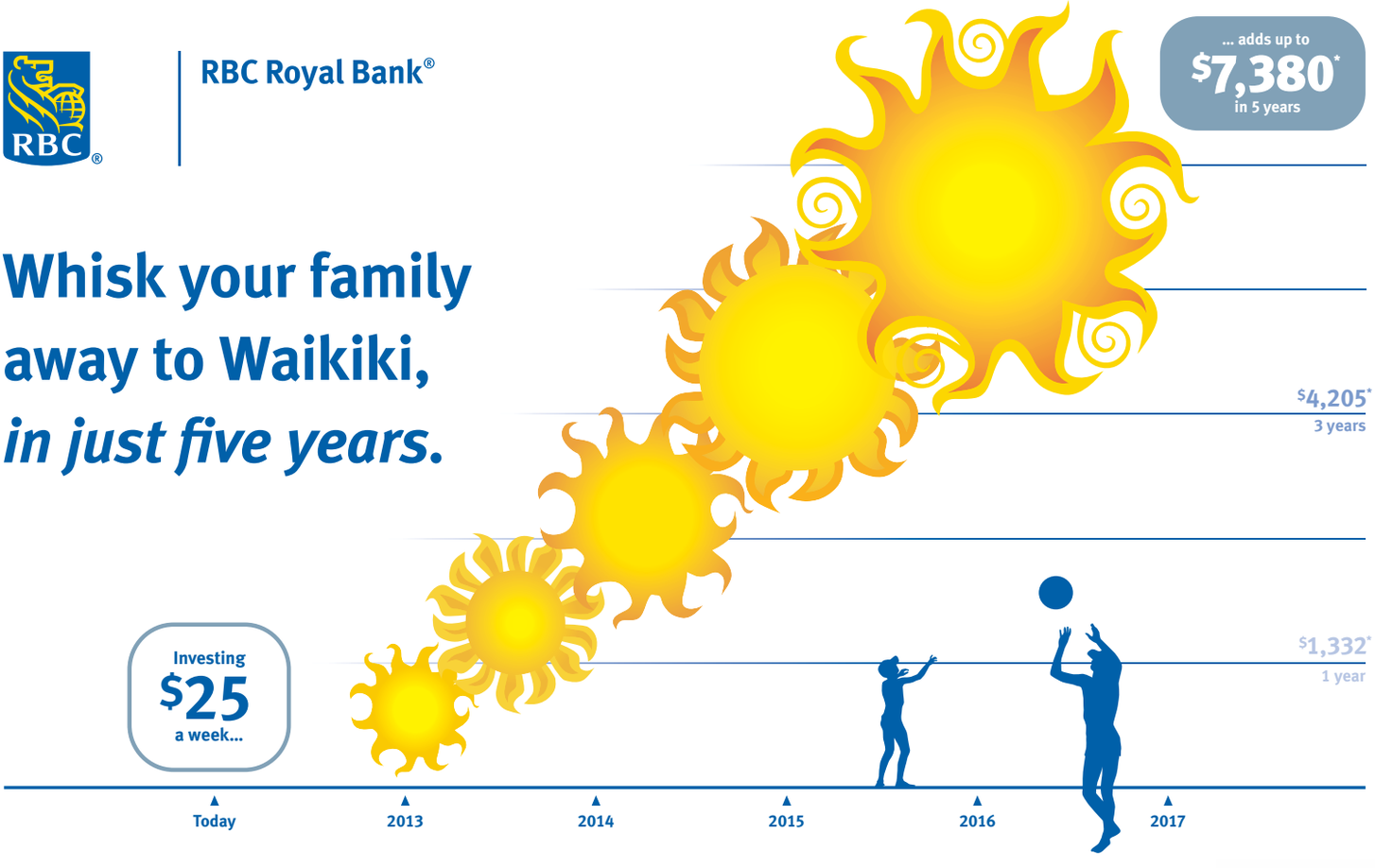

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Opportunity in Disguise

Missing this year's RRSP boat doesn't mean financial ship will sink

JANE DOUCET
FOR METRO

ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

If you don't make this year's RRSP contribution deadline of midnight Feb. 29 and you are hoping there is a grace period post-deadline, you will be out of luck. But arriving late to the investment party can be an opportunity in disguise.

"Trying to scramble to invest in an RRSP at tax time is challenging," says Joel Neynens, a certified financial planner and the vice-president of Gordon Stirrett Wealth Management in Halifax.

Instead, Neynens advises paying yourself first throughout the year. "If you have a consistent monthly income, monthly contributions are ideal," he says.

If you don't have fixed monthly earnings because you are self-employed, you could set up a separate bank account and sock RRSP funds into it whenever you have a windfall. Then you will have to summon the self-discipline to resist the temptation of using those funds for non-RRSP-related reasons.

Assessing your whole financial picture, either on your own or with a financial adviser, is a good idea at least once a year. That way, if you suddenly become widowed or divorced, or you inherit or win a large sum of money, you will be sure that some of it will be directed to your RRSP before you start shopping. Whether you have a partner or children will also affect your financial snapshot.

If you are lucky enough to get an income tax refund this year, you could roll it into next year's RRSP.

"The key is to not use it for discretionary spending," says Neynens. "Generally, if the money is in front of you, you'll want to spend it. So hide it in that separate bank account and forget about it."

That doesn't mean you shouldn't take a well-deserved vacation for working so hard, but maybe it will mean the difference between a family trip to Disneyland and a camping trip close to home.

When next year's deadline is looming, try not to wait until deadline day to hand over your cash. The sooner before the final moment you can do so, the better prepared you will be. And being organized and committed to saving is key.

"It's a case of paying yourself first ahead of other things and prioritizing your wants versus your needs," says Neynens.

"It's all about choices. You have to ask yourself whether HDTV is more important to you than saving for retirement. Then get ready to sharpen your pencil and ask yourself, 'Do I really need this?'"

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Which choices make cents?

YLVA VAN BUUREN
FOR METRO

ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

The big question around this time of year is ... should you contribute to your RRSP or use the money to reduce debt?

Here are some things to think about.

RRSP

An RRSP investment, says Jason Round, head of financial planning support for RBC Financial Planning, provides some sense that you will achieve a certain rate of return based on the level of risk you are willing to take on.

There is also an immediate tax deduction.

Also, if you are a higher income earner and you expect that during retirement you are going to earn less, then that would be significant motivation, too, says Round.

Peter Drake, vice-president, retirement and economic research, Fidelity Investments Canada, says if you start early, even if you only make a small contribution, that money is working for you over a longer period of time. And you need to save less. You also get into the important habit of saving for retirement.

DEBT

When debt is non-constructive (you are using it to buy a car, house, go on a vacation, etc., and you pay interest charges every month), clearing debt should be your first plan of attack, according to Anthony Williams, vice-president of academic affairs, Canadian Institute of Financial Planning.

For example, if you owe $1,000 on a credit card that has an interest rate of 20 per cent, you would save 20 per cent in after-tax dollars. "That's compelling when GICs are paying next to nothing, the stock market is up and down, mutual funds up and down. Where are you going to get a 20 per cent return after tax and, for some people, 35 per cent rate of return before tax?"

But remember — if you just pay off debt you may at some point have to go back into debt to make up for the fact you didn't save.

WHAT TO DO?

One common strategy, says Williams, is to make an RRSP contribution (which addresses retirement savings) and then use the tax refund to pay down debt.

When do you start income planning?

YLVA VAN BUUREN
FOR METRO

At a certain point in life, financial experts advise that you will have to start "income planning" for retirement as opposed to just saving.

"Essentially, you're looking at what piles to put your money in and when to start shifting it around," explains Jason Round, head of financial planning support for RBC Financial Planning,

The registered retirement income fund (RRIF) can play a big role in this exercise. The RRIF is a tax-deferred plan that generates income from the savings you have accumulated in your RRSP.

The government requires that RRSPs be converted to RRIFs by Dec. 31 of the year the plan owner turns 71, if not earlier. Then you have to start making withdrawals in the year following conversion, says Pound, and there is a legislated minimum based on your age.

The biggest reason to convert RRSPs to RRIFs early is you need income.

But what's important to know is that if you convert to a RRIF and start taking minimum payments, you won't have withholding taxes taken off by your financial institution, says Round.

For the average retiree — and 62 is the average retirement age now in Canada — converting RRSPs to RRIFs when they retire and long before the age 71 deadline means "you will reduce the amount you'll have to balance later on when you're entitled to old age security."

The funds withdrawn from RRIFs turn into taxable income and may impact how much old age security you can get.

Annuity or RRIF?

When you convert your RRSPs, you can put them into a RRIF or an annuity.

An annuity provides a certain sum of money regularly, explains Peter Drake, vice-president, retirement and economic research, Fidelity Investments Canada. It also provides a high degree of certainty.

"The downside of an annuity," says Drake, "is you no longer have access to that capital."

A RIFF, on the other hand, lets you maintain control over how the money is invested. There is a minimum withdrawal that you have to take each year and it is taxed.

By the numbers

- **Canadians aged 18-34** still trail baby boomers in RRSP ownership and contribution rates, according to RBC's 22nd annual RRSP poll. While 43 per cent of younger Canadians now hold RRSPs, this number still lags behind the 69 per cent of boomers with RRSPs.

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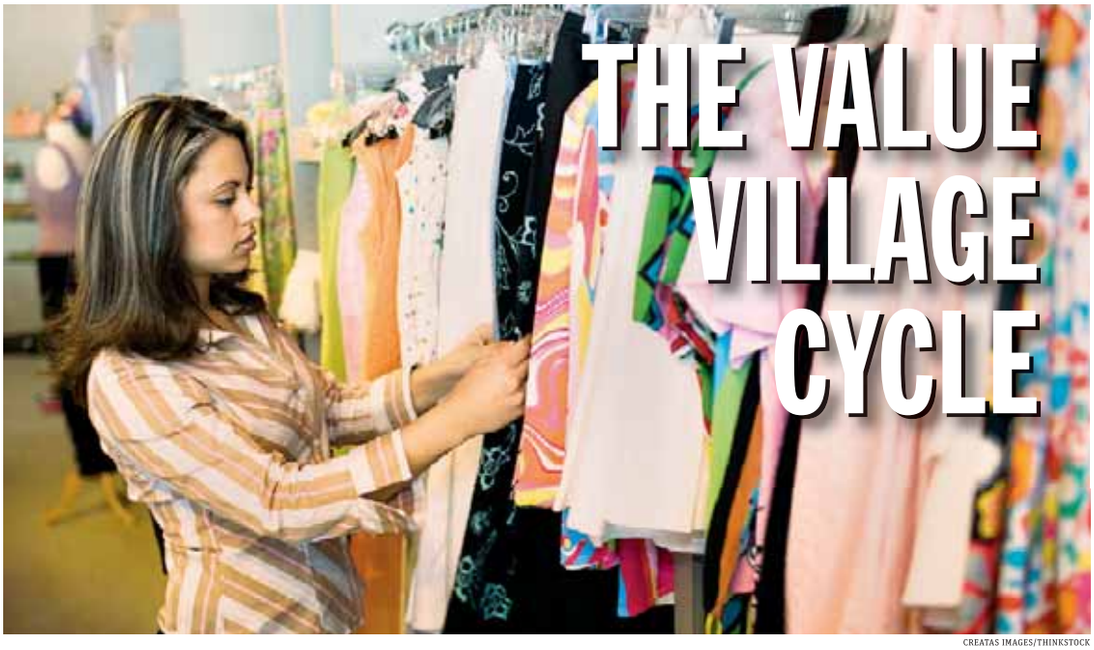

THE VALUE VILLAGE CYCLE

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What many don't realize is that one of the easiest ways to "go green" is by shopping thrift. When you shop at Value Village stores and donate reusable items to its non-profit partners, you are keeping goods out of landfills and giving old treasures new life.

"We know millions of families are already starting to clear out their clutter with spring cleaning," said Tony Shumpert, vice-president of recycling operations for Value Village. "By donating these items, instead of simply throwing them away, you can give back to your community and save quality goods from polluting the Earth. In fact, Value Village operates one of the largest recycling programs in the world, keeping more than 500 million pounds of goods out of landfills last year alone."

So how does it work?

DID YOU KNOW?

Value Village buys its merchandise from more than 60 different non-profit offices across Canada. This unique relationship helps support the community programs or each non-profit and also creates more jobs.

Every Value Village location partners with a charitable organization in its community, such as the Canadian Diabetes Association. All year round, each store pays its non-profit partner for every donated item, including clothing, housewares, books and more — turning otherwise unused goods into sustainable funding that supports vital community programs and services. Customers can either call the non-profit for a pickup or drop off their items at the convenient Community Donation Centres located at every Value Village.

The highest-quality items are value-priced and displayed on Value Village's sales floors for purchase, while merchandise not suitable for resale is responsibly recycled — with most items being sold to developing countries and material wholesalers.

For more information on Value Village's non-profit partnerships and recycling efforts, or to find a Community Donation Centre near you, visit valuevillage.com.

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To find a Community Donation Centre near you or to see if home pick-up is available in your area, visit:
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Trading skill for 'a force'

Canucks send talented centre Hodgson to Sabres for hulking right-winger Kassian at deadline

Mike Gillis wanted to change the balance of power on his own team as well as in the Western Conference.

The Vancouver Canucks general manager made a splash at Monday's NHL trade deadline by sending slick rookie centre Cody Hodgson to the Buffalo Sabres for burly winger Zack Kassian. Both are former first-round draft choices.

"We needed to have more power," Gillis told Vancouver radio station Team 1040. "We have enough skill."

Hodgson ranks among league leaders in rookie scoring with 16 goals and 17 assists. The transaction highlighted an otherwise moderate day of trading.

Many teams remained quiet rather than participate in the flurry of deals common on deadline days. As a result, some prized players, including Columbus Blue Jackets captain Rick Nash and Canucks goalie Cory Schneider, stayed with their clubs.

The Canucks also sent rarely used defenceman Alexander Sulzer to the Sabres for defenceman Marc-Andre Gragnani as part of the four-player deal.

Gillis said the Canucks dealt Hodgson because they have to become more physical. The Vancouver GM said Hodgson also probably would have been stuck on the third line behind Henrik Sedin and Ryan Kelser for three to five years.

JEFF GROSS/GETTY IMAGES FILE

▶ Rookie centre Cody Hodgson was traded by the Canucks to the Sabres on Monday.

Hodgson was the first player Gillis drafted in 2008 after taking the Canucks helm and the deal was "extremely difficult." said the GM, but the club lacked strength at the "power-forward position."

Gillis called Kassian "a force" who has the potential to become a "special player" like Hodgson.

"He skates well, he has good hands and he's a rough, nasty guy," said Gillis.

He said the Canucks never would have traded a young player for an older player. Kassian has a chance to grow with the Canucks and allows Vancouver to give teams a different look and play a different style.

"It's a new opportunity and we'll see what happens," Hodgson, 21, told TSN shortly after the deal was reported. "But I have mixed emotions."

Kassian, a 21-year-old Windsor, Ont., native, has three goals and four assists in 27 games with the Sabres this season, his first in the NHL. He was drafted 13th overall by Buffalo in 2009.

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES FILE

"I like to be physical, but at the same time make plays and chip in offensively."
NEW CANUCK ZACH KASSIAN

The six-foot-three, 228-pound winger will be looked upon for the toughness that Vancouver lacked during last spring's Stanley Cup final.

Earlier on Monday, the Canucks acquired centre Sammy Pahlsson from Columbus for minor-league blue-liner Taylor Ellington and two 2012 fourth-round draft picks.

Pahlsson, a 34-year-old native of Ange, Sweden, recorded two goals and nine assists in Columbus this season.

In another deal, Vancouver obtained right-winger Andrew Gordon from the Anaheim Ducks for defenceman Sebastien Erixon.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Preds deal to 'play with the big boys'

The Nashville Predators added some reinforcements for a playoff run, while Rick Nash's wish for a deal didn't come to fruition Monday as the NHL trade deadline passed without any blockbuster moves.

The Predators are looking to take the next step by adding left-winger Andrei Kostitsyn and two-way forward Paul Gaustad. Nashville also acquired blue-liner Hal Gill earlier this month and sit in fifth in the Western Conference.

"I think with these trades we've certainly given us a chance to play with the big boys this year when we get in the playoffs," Predators GM David Poile said.

"The price was high and I don't apologize for that."
COLUMBUS GM SCOTT HOWSON, WHO DIDN'T TRADE RICK NASH, DESPITE THE FACT HIS CAPTAIN HAD ASKED FOR A TRADE IN LATE JANUARY.

Nashville sent a 2012 first-round draft pick and a 2013 fourth-rounder to Buffalo for Gaustad. Kostitsyn, who will be reunited with his brother Sergei, came from Montreal for a second-round and conditional fifth-round pick in 2013.

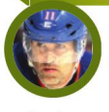
But the big catch went nowhere. Columbus Blue Jackets GM Scott Howson said there were "significant discussions" for Nash but no deal was struck.

There were 16 deals Monday, but nothing that altered the fabric of the NHL universe. The fact that the playoffs remain within reach for so many teams — all but five were within six points of a playoff spot when the deadline passed — created a one-sided market. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deadline deals

Four more transactions from around the NHL on Monday:

BRUINS

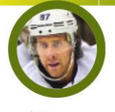


Boston acquired **Brian Rolston** and Mike Mottau from the Islanders for Yannick Riendeau and Marc Cantin.

FLAMES

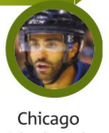
Calgary signed veteran right-winger **Tim Jackman** to a two-year, $1.225-million contract.

SENS



Ottawa acquired defenceman **Matt Gilroy** from Tampa Bay in exchange for defenceman Brian Lee.

HAWKS



Chicago picked up defenceman **Johnny Oduya** from Winnipeg for a second- and third-round pick.

4 sports

Canucks preview

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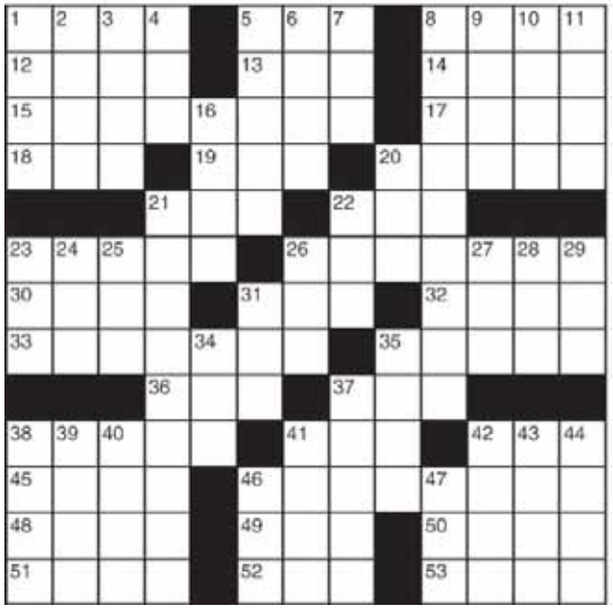
6 p.m.
TV: SNET

The Canucks (40-16-7) face Phoenix (32-21-9), which has won five straight and nine of its last 10. The Coyotes beat Edmonton 3-1 on Saturday to take the lead in the Pacific Division. Shane Doan scored in the win to reach 20 goals for the 11th season of his career. Mike Smith is 10-0 in February, allowing only 15 goals over those 10 starts. Ray Whitney, who leads Phoenix with 57 points, has 18 points in his last 14 games.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Scan code for more sports.

Crossword



Across

1 Humpty's perch
5 — out (relax)
8 Applaud
12 Others (Lat.)
13 Mrs. McKinley
14 Helper
15 Dracula's ilk
17 Nasty
18 Before
19 Fellows
20 Reject disdainfully
21 Quid pro —
22 3, on the phone
23 Counterfeit
26 Spoke highly of
30 Met melody
31 Bliss
32 Italy's capital
33 "Oh, what a — web we weave ..."
35 Underneath
36 Wrestling surface
37 Storefront sign abbr.
38 DJ's creation
41 Twosome
42 Ostrich's cousin
45 Tresses
46 Shortcircuits the ignition
48 Slave to cross-words?
49 Joan of —
50 Workbench attachment
51 Nays' opponents
52 — -jongg
53 12 months

Down

1 Greet silently
2 Winged
3 Key — pie
4 Once around the track
5 Migratory songbird
6 Biblical garden
7 Petrol
8 S'mores are often cooked over them
9 Stead
10 Jewish month
11 Teller's partner
16 Don of radio fame
20 Vast expanse
21 Marshes
22 Parched
23 Cudgel
24 Man-mouse link
25 Martini ingredient
26 Spacecraft compartment
27 Scale member
28 Comedian Philips
29 Morning moisture
31 Lustrous black
34 Remiss
35 Forehead
37 Starsky's pal
38 Perlman of "Cheers"
39 Simple
40 Gold digger's place?
41 Nickelodeon's explorer
42 Great Lake
43 Arizona city
44 Addict
46 Easter entree, often
47 Wall climber

▶ Monday's answer

Sudoku

9		7			6		1	
				8	5			2
2				1		8		
		2					9	
		4	3		8	2		
	5					7		
		8		4				6
3			1	7				
	2		8			3		4

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Monday's answer ▶

3	7	2	5	6	4	1	9	8
1	4	6	3	9	8	5	2	7
5	8	9	7	1	2	4	3	6
6	1	4	2	3	7	9	8	5
2	5	7	4	8	9	3	6	1
9	3	8	1	5	6	7	4	2
4	6	5	9	2	1	8	7	3
8	9	3	6	7	5	2	1	4
7	2	1	8	4	3	6	5	9

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, at metronews.ca/kiss.

Lovely Man
Been a long time since I dreamed of you. Woke up to your fading face this morn, & I struggled to hold onto the sight. They say it was lust, but I remember feeling more. Wonder when I will hear from you or have the good fortune of laying eyes on you again, even if in passing. I know it's wrong, but it felt so right.
FROM NATURALLY ALL-BRAN

To BT
Do everything by your heart originally you will be stronger. **FROM AL**

my love
you know you got the power to make me weak inside! Even forever doesnt seem like long enough, maybe im a drifter maybe not all i know is that everytime i try to rise above im swept away by love. Powerful as hate can be, you will always mean the world to me.
FROM YOUR LOVE

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20
Something will happen that compels you to question a belief or an attitude that has been a part of your life for as long as you can remember.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21
You don't need the approval of family or friends or work colleagues to do what you know to be right.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21
You will surprise more than a few people today by how easily you move from one set of circumstances to another.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22
Stay focused on your number one objective and don't let anything else that might be going on around you tempt you off at a tangent.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23
Someone will make you an interesting offer today but you need to be certain it is right for you before you accept.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22
It's kiss and make up time.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23
You've been working your fingers to the bone and need to go easier on yourself for a while.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22
You will be in an assertive mood today and that's good.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21
Don't expect other people to think logically and act in predictable ways.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20
Most likely you will do something today that leaves everyone around you open-mouthed in amazement.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18
You may be having your doubts about a commitment of some kind. If so you will need to make a decision today: either you pull out now or stay with it for the long haul.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20
Something will not work out the way you expected, but it really doesn't matter.
SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

JENS MEYER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAVID SMITH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

WIN!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in Wednesday's Metro.

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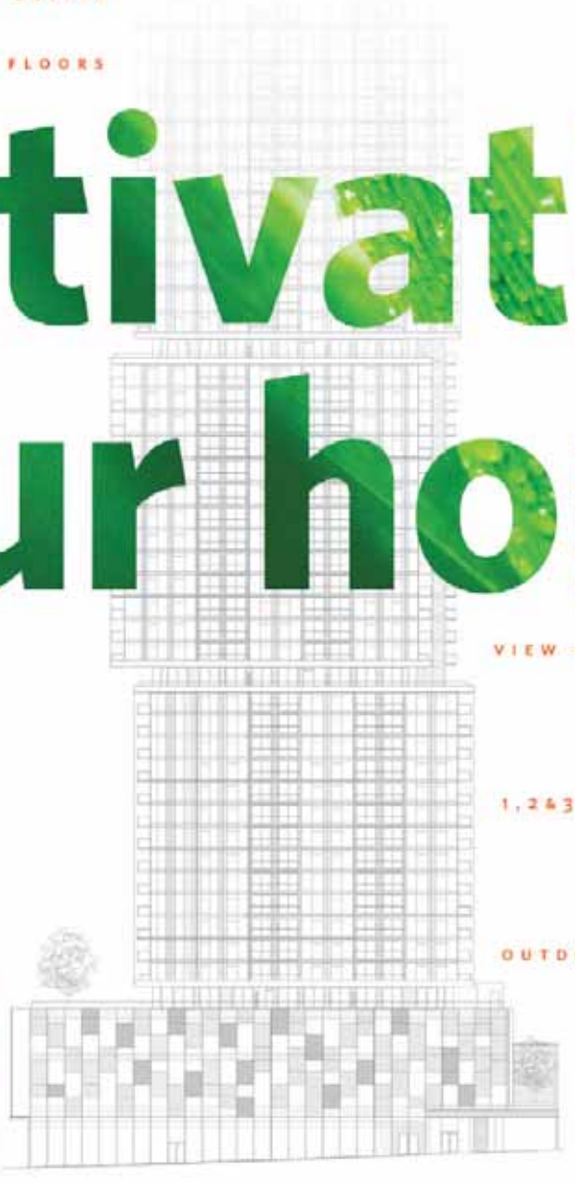

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